

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments made in this reply and for the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being cancelled or added.

Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 36, 43, 50 and 57 are currently being amended.

This reply amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-63 are presently pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the final Office Action, claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-19, 22-26, 29-33, 36-40, 43-47, 50-54 and 57-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,606,385 to Aikawa et al.; and claims 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28, 34-35, 41-42, 48-49, 55-56 and 62-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aikawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,850 to Ishii et al. These rejections are traversed for at least the reasons given below.

Each of the presently pending independent claims has been amended to recite additional features of the encrypting or decrypting operation, as disclosed on pages 84 and 85 of the specification. Such features are not believed to be taught or suggested by the cited art of record, alone or in combination.

Conclusion:

Therefore, since all of the objections and rejections raised in the final Office Action and the Advisory Action have been addressed in this Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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